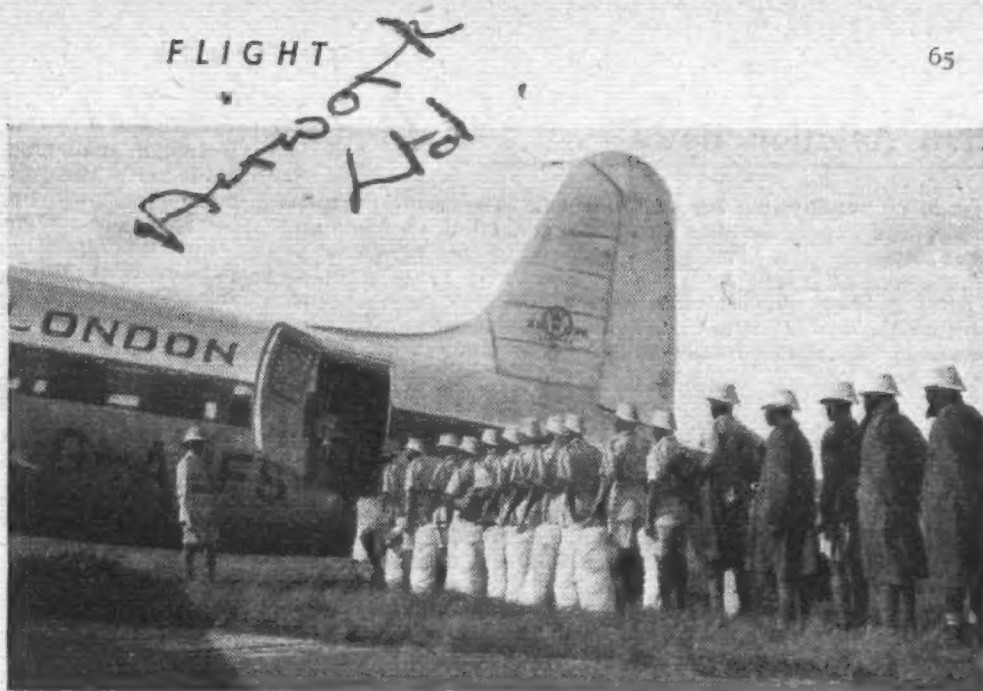


showed substantial gains. The total carried internally was 360,417 as compared with 290,425 for the last quarter of 1947 and 245,002 for the corresponding quarter of 1947. The average passenger loading increased from 67.5 per cent last year to 74 per cent. Between December and March Trans Australia Airlines increased its loadings from 56.9 per cent to 69.9 per cent. Freight carried showed a 140 per cent increase on the 1947 totals, and during the March quarter 6,845 tons were handled. Route miles rose from 34,052 to 46,733, and since the close of the quarter additional routes have been opened.

Australian National Airways statistics for the first quarter of 1948 show that there was a slight drop in passenger traffic during March when compared with January, the peak month. During January 59,573 passengers and 1,767,592 lb of freight were carried, and 1,422,548 miles and 9,277 hours were flown, as against 57,104 passengers and 3,942,306 lb of freight carried during March, and 1,547,895 miles flown in 10,081 hours. Traffic figures for February were: passengers carried 52,766, freight handled 2,735,803 lb, and 1,352,063 miles and 8,844 hours flown.

### REGULARITY COMPARISONS

INFORMATION from America discloses that one of the main domestic operators, United Airlines, achieved in 7,009 scheduled flights during May a 96 per cent regularity. The figure was an improvement upon March, when the regularity was 92.5 per cent, but was lower than April which was 97 per cent. In view of these figures the regularity of B.E.A.C. operations within the United Kingdom are of particular interest. In March the British Corporation flew at 96.8 per cent regularity, in April 98.6 per cent and in May 97.3 per cent. During the 12 months from April 1st, 1947, to March 31st, 1948, the English services flew at 96 per cent regularity and the Scottish at 96.9 per cent, giving an overall



**AIRBORNE POLICE:** African police boarding a Viking chartered from Airwork on April 15th this year at Salisbury, to fly to Bulawayo as reinforcements to deal with a native strike. It is believed they are the first African police to fly on duty.

average of 96.5 per cent. These figures do not include ferry services which are cancelled when no seats are taken. The American company during March took off on time for 82.5 per cent of their schedules. In April they improved to 87.7 per cent, but in May the figure fell to 85 per cent. The British Corporation started badly in March with about 59 per cent, but improved in April to 70.9 per cent and again in May to 78.6 per cent. These percentage figures from the British Corporation represent during May 14.7 per cent of take-offs which were less than 15 minutes late, 5.3 per cent delayed for between 15 and 60 minutes, 1.3 per cent delayed up to 12 hours, and 0.1 per cent delays of more than 12 hours which invariably involved complete cancellation of that particular service.

## BREVITIES

BRITISH Commonwealth Pacific Airways' Sydney-Vancouver service is scheduled to connect with Trans-Canada Airlines in order to permit passengers to reach London from Sydney in six days.

W/C. J. V. Branch, O.B.E., who, as announced in *Flight*, May 27th, was seconded from the School of Navigation, University College, Southampton, to I.C.A.O. to advise on navigation training, has now accepted a permanent post in the Training Division of the Organization.

Recent appointments to the Civil Aviation Department in Australia are: Assistant Director-General (Technical), G/C. C. S. Wiggins; Director, Air Transport and External Relations, W/C. A. B. McFarlane; Regional Director, Sydney, A. Cdre. A. H. Cobby; and Regional Director, Perth, G/C. D. Ross.

The Northwest Aviation Planning Council is to hold its twelfth International Convention in Vancouver, British Columbia, September 19th-21st. The Convention is sponsored by the Transportation and Customs Bureau of the Vancouver Board of Trade, and one of its features will be a discussion on the development of air tourist traffic. Sir Hubert Wilkins will be one of the guest speakers, and it is hoped to secure the attendance of a British authority to speak on the development of jet propulsion.

Sir Miles Thomas, deputy chairman of B.O.A.C., returned from Ceylon on Monday, July 5th, after discussions with the Minister for Transport and Works and other members of the Ceylon Government in connection with the proposed Singapore-Colombo-London air service. Others participating in the discussions besides Sir John Kotelewala were Hon. Sir Oliver Goonetilleke, Minister for Home Affairs; Mr. J. R. Jayewardene, Minister for Finance; Mr. L. F. B. Perera, Director of Civil Aviation; and Mr. R. H. Maxwell, Adviser, Overseas Relations, B.O.A.C. Further discussions will be held on government level.

It is understood that Capt. Fresson, who was until recently area manager, Scottish Division, B.E.A.C., has left to take up an appointment in Kenya.

Signor da Cunha and Capt. Ferreira, managing director and chief pilot of Beta, the Portuguese East African charter company which operates from Lourenço Marques, were in this country last week as guests of the de Havilland company, and on Friday made a tour of inspection of Northolt and the British European Airways' organization.

It is understood from Air Liaison, Limited, that a tour was completed recently for a business executive who travelled 37,000 miles visiting overseas connections in Australia, New Zealand, Canada, India, Pakistan, Egypt, Cyprus, Greece, and South Africa at a cost of £840. The overall time taken for the trip was three months.

Owing to recent tariff amendments, B.O.A.C. now offer considerable reductions for freight consignments in excess of 100 lb (45 kilos) weight. For example, the ordinary rate for a consignment of 103 lb from London to Sydney of £62 2s has been reduced to £46 11s 6d under the new reduced rate. Such reductions have been available for some time past on North and South American routes, and are now available on all B.O.A.C. routes.

A new cargo depot was opened by Aer Lingus at 71b, Parnell Street, Dublin, on July 1st. The depot, which is open between 0900 and 1800 hr on weekdays, is used for the handling of import and export air cargo, and in conjunction with it a freight collection and delivery service operates between the city and the airport. Post office mail and newspapers continue to be handled at the City Air Terminus, which also handles urgent consignments when the freight depot is closed. With the reintroduction on July 1st of an import customs clearance section at Dublin airport, a complete service for freight operating between 0600 and 2330 hr on weekdays and 1530 to